

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claim 2 without prejudice and adds new claims 28-45. Thus, claims 1 and 3-45 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 23-27.

In addition, Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 8, 12-18, and 22.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of allowable claim 2, which has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and, not, cancelled claim 2. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 8 as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claim 1, as well as claims 3 and 5-22 that depend therefrom, are in condition for issuance.

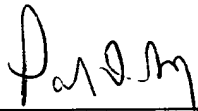
Allowable claim 4 has been re-written in independent form, namely to include the elements of claim 1. Further, new claims 28-45 have been added and depend from allowable claim 4. Support for new claims 28-45 can be found in original claims 5-22. Thus, claim 4, as well as claims 28-45 that depend therefrom, are in condition for issuance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for issuance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

February 28, 2007



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